

PRIDE MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as we celebrate Pride Month, I want to take a moment to acknowledge some of the trailblazers and pioneers in the LGBTQ+ community who have led the fight for equality.

Our Nation—and the world—has come a long way since the first Pride parade was organized more than half a century ago. But that progress didn't come about on its own. It demanded sacrifice, from activists like Marsha P. Johnson, who led the Stonewall Uprising in New York City, and leaders like Harvey Milk, who gave his life to advance LGBTQ+ equality. And it also demanded courage, courage that we see on display every day.

Just this week, a defensive lineman for the Las Vegas Raiders, Carl Nassib, became the first active NFL player to come out as gay. In a video he posted, Mr. Nassib said he hopes that “one day videos like this and the whole coming-out process are just not necessary . . . but until then I'm going to do my best and my part to cultivate a culture that's accepting, that's compassionate.” That is really what Pride Month is all about, joining together to embrace our friends and loved ones exactly as they are and cultivating a culture that is more accepting and compassionate.

Carl Nassib's announcement this week is yet another reminder of how far the movement for LGBTQ+ equality has come, in my lifetime and even during my time in Congress. The year I was elected to the U.S. Senate, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, a shameful piece of legislation that outlawed same-sex marriage. But less than two decades later, the Supreme Court corrected that mistake by making marriage equality the law of the land. The sixth anniversary of that decision, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, is coming up this Saturday, the same day as Chicago's Pride in the Park festival in Grant Park. It is a remarkable trajectory, and it is one nobody could have predicted when I first entered Congress. It also begs the question: What progress will our Nation achieve over the next 20 years?

Earlier this year, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I was honored to gavel in the Senate's first-ever hearing on the EQUALITY Act. It is a crucial piece of legislation that would strengthen civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ Americans and would explicitly prohibit discrimination in education, employment, housing, and other facets of everyday life. The EQUALITY Act has already passed the House, but it is currently languishing in this Chamber. Will we allow this Senate to once again stand as a bulwark against the tides of progress? Or will we join Carl Nassib—and others before him—in acting with courage?

This Pride Month, I hope we follow Mr. Nassib's lead, and I hope we do our part to cultivate a culture that embraces all of our Nation's children, exactly as who they are.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA, June 24, 2021.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-36, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Philippines for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$120 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures:

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-36

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Philippines.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$45 million.
Other \$75 million.
Total \$120 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Twelve (12) AGM-84L-1 Harpoon Block II Air Launched Missiles.
Two (2) ATM-84L-1 Harpoon Block II Exercise Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (PI-P-AAZ)

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 24, 2021.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Philippines—AGM-84L-1 Harpoon Air
Launched Block II Missiles

The Government of the Philippines has requested to buy twelve (12) AGM-84L-1 Harpoon Block II air launched missiles; and two (2) ATM-84L-1 Harpoon Block II Exercise missiles. Also included are containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$120 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner that continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South East Asia.

The proposed sale will enhance the Philippines' interoperability with the U.S. and other allied nations, making it a more valuable partner in an increasingly important area of the world. It will improve the Philippines' capability to meet current and future threats by providing flexible solutions to augment existing surface and air defense. The Philippine Air Force is modernizing its fighter aircraft to better support its own maritime security needs. This capability will provide the Philippine Air Force the ability to employ a highly reliable and effective system to counter or deter maritime aggressions, coastal blockades, and amphibious assaults. The Philippines will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be The Boeing Company, St. Louis, MO. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require travel of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Philippines on a temporary basis for program technical support and management oversight.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

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Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Harpoon missile is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in 29 other foreign nations. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability and is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile. The AGM-84L incorporates components, software, and technical design information that are considered sensitive, to include:

The Radar Seeker.

The Radar Altimeter.

The GPS/INS System.

Operational Flight Program Software.

Missile operational characteristics and performance data.

These elements are essential to the ability of the Harpoon missile to selectively engage hostile targets under a wide range of operations, tactical and environmental conditions.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is CONFIDENTIAL.